

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04865 061154Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06 OMB-01 L-03 DODE-00 /054 W
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R 060816Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2455
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4865

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG
SUBJ: INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS: GOI WELCOMES BDG
NACCFM DELEGATION

REF: DACCA 1744

1. GREETING THE BDG FOREIGN MINISTER PROF. MOHAMMAD SHANSUL HAQ (HEAD OF THE BDG DELEGATION TO THE NACCFM) AT THE DELHI AIRPORT APRIL 5, INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH WOULD BECOME "MORE CORDIAL AND INTENSE" AND THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE "ALL THEIR PROBLEMS" TO THEIR MUTUAL SATISFACTION ON THE BASIS OF "EQUALITY AND BROTHERHOOD." VAJPAYEE SAID THAT SOLUTION OF INDO-BANGLADESH PROBLEMS WOULD SET AN EXAMPLE OF "COOPERATION" BEFORE THE WORLD. HE ADDED THAT INDIA'S TIES WITH BANGLADESH ARE BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW: "WHENEVER WE THINK OF THE GANGES, WE ARE REMINDED OF PADMA..."

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 04865 061154Z

2. HAQ CONVEYED THE WARMEST GREETINGS OF THE BDG TO THE NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO FUTHER STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. WITHIN TWO HOURS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE BDG DELEGATION, HAQ ACCOMPANIED BY TOBARAK HUSAIN, BDG

FOREIGN SECRETARY: MANZOOR AHMED CHOUDHURY, BDG
ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY; AND SHAMUSUR RAHMAN,
BDG HIGH COMMISSIONER IN DELHI CALLED ON PRIME
MINISTER MORAJI DESAI. THE BDG MILATT IN NEW DELHI
TOLD THE CHARGE APRIL 5 THAT THE DELEGATION FROM
DACCA WAS VERY PLEASED AND IMPRESSED BY FOREIGN
MINISTER VAJPAYEE.

4. COMMENT: FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GOI'S DESIRE TO
NEGOTIATE DIFFICULTIES WITH BANGLADESH IS FOUND IN
THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS ON FARAKKA, SCHEDULED FOR
APRIL 15, REPORTED REFTEL, AND ANNOUNCED IN DELHI
PRESS APRIL 6, AND THE FACT THAT JAGJIVAN RAM WILL
HEAD INDIAN DELEGATION. THE NEW PRIME MINISTER IS
OBVIOUSLY EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA'S
RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, AS INDICATED BY HIS
EARLY MEETINGS WITH HAQ, THE KING OF NEPAL (NEW
DELHI 4821) AND HIS EXPECTED APRIL 6 MEETING WITH
PAKISTAN SPECIAL EMISSARY SHAH NAWAZ KHAN (NEW
DELHI 4842).
SCHNEDIER

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